



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Bonnie Ponwith, Ph.D.
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
75 Virginia Beach Drive, Room 207
Miami, Florida 33149

JUL 21 2011

Dear Dr. Ponwith:

The National Marine Fisheries Service has issued Permit No. 15552 to the Southeast Fisheries Science Center for research activities on sea turtles. This permit is effective upon your signature and valid through the expiration date indicated in Condition A.1.

Here's what you need to do to use your permit:

1. Read the permit, including attachments. If you have questions, call your permit analyst – Colette Cairns or Amy Hapeman – at 301-427-8401 before signing the permit.
2. Sign and date the original signature page and the signature page marked “file copy.”
3. Keep the original signature page with your permit. You need both as proof of your authorization to conduct the research activities.
4. Send the “file copy” signature page to our office as proof of your acceptance of the permit.

Please keep your email contact information current in our online database (<https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov/>). You will receive automated email reminders of due dates for annual and final reports, and a notice prior to expiration of your permit.

Please return the signature page marked “file copy” to the Permits Division (F/PR1), 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. You may also submit the “file copy” of the signature page by facsimile (FAX number: 301-713-0376) and confirm it by mail.

Sincerely,

P. Michael Payne
Chief, Permits, Conservation
and Education Division
Office of Protected Resources
(phone: 301-713-2289)

Enclosure



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Permit No. 15552
Expiration Date: July 25, 2016
Reports Due: October 23rd, annually

PERMIT TO TAKE PROTECTED SPECIES¹ FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES

I. Authorization

This permit is issued to National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) [Bonnie Ponwith, Responsible Party] (hereinafter "Permit Holder"), 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Room 207, Miami, Florida, 33149, pursuant to the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR Parts 222-226).

II. Abstract

The objectives of the permitted activity, as described in the application, are to monitor the take of ESA-listed sea turtle species by observed commercial fisheries and collect data which would estimate by-catch and its effects on sea turtle sub-populations. The permit authorizes SEFSC observers to collect data on juvenile, sub-adult, and adult sea turtles incidentally captured in commercial fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico and the East coast of the United States.

III. Terms and Conditions

The activities authorized herein must occur by the means, in the areas, and for the purposes set forth in the permit application, and as limited by the Terms and Conditions specified in this permit, including attachments and appendices. Permit noncompliance constitutes a violation and is grounds for permit modification, suspension, or revocation, and for enforcement action.

A. Duration of Permit

1. Personnel listed in Condition C.1 of this permit (hereinafter "Researchers") may conduct activities authorized by this permit through July 25, 2016. This permit expires on the date indicated and is non-renewable. This permit may be extended by the Director, NMFS Office of Protected Resources, pursuant to applicable regulations and the requirements of the ESA.
2. Researchers must suspend permitted activities in the event serious injury or mortality² of protected species occurs. The Permit Holder must contact the Chief,

¹ "Protected species" include species listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA, and marine mammals.

² This permit does not allow for unintentional serious injury and mortality caused by the presence or actions of researchers in the tables of Appendix 1. This includes, but is not limited to; deaths resulting from infections related



NMFS Permits, Conservation and Education Division (hereinafter “Permits Division”) by phone (301-427-8401) within two business days. The Permit Holder must also submit a written incident report as described in Condition E.2. The Permits Division may grant authorization to resume permitted activities based on review of the incident report and in consideration of the Terms and Conditions of this permit.

3. If authorized take³ is exceeded, Researchers must cease permitted activities and notify the Chief, Permits Division, by phone (301-427-8401) as soon as possible, but no later than within two business days. The Permit Holder must also submit a written incident report as described in Condition E.2. The Permits Division may grant authorization to resume permitted activities based on review of the incident report and in consideration of the Terms and Conditions of this permit.

B. Number and Kind(s) of Protected Species, Location(s) and Manner of Taking

1. The tables in Appendix 1 outline the number of protected species authorized to be taken, and the locations, manner, and time period in which they may be taken.
2. Researchers working under this permit may collect visual images (*e.g.*, still photographs, motion pictures) as needed to document the permitted activities, provided the collection of such images does not result in takes of protected species.
3. The Permit Holder may use visual images and audio recordings collected under this permit, including those authorized in the tables of Appendix 1, in printed materials (including commercial or scientific publications) and presentations provided the images and recordings are accompanied by a statement indicating that the activity was conducted pursuant to Permit No. 15552. This statement must accompany the images and recordings in all subsequent uses or sales.
4. Upon written request from the Permit Holder, approval for photography, filming, or audio recording activities not essential to achieving the objectives of the permitted activities, including allowing personnel not essential to the research (*e.g.* a documentary film crew) to be present, may be granted by the Chief, Permits Division.
 - a. Where such non-essential photography, filming, or recording activities are authorized they must not influence the conduct of permitted activities or result in takes of protected species.

to sampling procedures; and deaths or injuries sustained by animals during capture and handling, or while attempting to avoid researchers or escape capture.

³ Under the ESA, a take means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to do any of the preceding.

- b. Personnel authorized to accompany the Researchers during permitted activities for the purpose of non-essential photography, filming, or recording activities are not allowed to participate in the permitted activities.
 - c. The Permit Holder and Researchers cannot require compensation in return for allowing non-essential personnel to accompany Researchers to conduct non-essential photography, filming, or recording activities.
5. Researchers must comply with the following conditions related to the manner of taking:
- a. Handling, Measuring, Weighing, PIT and Flipper Tagging
 - 1. When handling, measuring, and/or tagging turtles, researchers must use the following procedures:
 - a. All equipment (tagging equipment, tape measures, etc.) that comes in contact with sea turtles must be cleaned and disinfected between the processing of each turtle; and
 - b. Maintain a separate set of sampling equipment for handling animals displaying fibropapillomas tumors/or lesions (all equipment that comes in contact with the turtle must be cleaned with a disinfectant between the processing of each turtle).
 - c. All turtles must be examined for existing tags, including PIT tags, before attaching or inserting new ones. If existing tags are found, the tag identification numbers must be recorded and included in the annual report. Researchers must have PIT tag readers capable of reading 125, 128, 134.2, and 400 kHz tags.
 - d. Flipper Tagging with Metal Tags- All tags must be cleaned (e.g., to remove oil residue) and disinfected before being used. Applicators must be cleaned (and disinfected when appropriate, e.g., contaminated with fluids) between animals. The application site must be cleaned and then scrubbed with a disinfectant (e.g. Betadine) before the tag pierces the animal's skin.
 - e. PIT Tagging- New, sterile tag applicators (needles) must be used. The application site must be cleaned and then scrubbed with a disinfectant (e.g. Betadine) before the applicator pierces the animal's skin. The injector handle must be disinfected if it has been exposed to fluids from other animals.

2. General Handling and Releasing of Turtles:

- a. The Permit Holder, Principal Investigator, Co-investigator(s), or Research Assistant(s) acting on the Permit Holder's behalf must use care when handling live animals to minimize any possible injury, and appropriate resuscitation techniques must be used on any comatose turtle prior to returning it to the water. Whenever possible, injured animals should be transferred to rehabilitation facilities and allowed an appropriate period of recovery before return to the wild. An experienced veterinarian, veterinary technician, or rehabilitation facility must be named for emergencies. If an animal becomes highly stressed, injured, or comatose during the course of the research activities the researchers must contact a veterinarian immediately. Based on the instructions of the veterinarian, if necessary, the animal must be immediately transferred to the veterinarian or to a rehabilitation facility to receive veterinary care. All turtles must be handled according to procedures specified in 50 CFR 223.206(d)(1)(i).

For research activities occurring aboard commercial fishing vessels or in conjunction with other NMFS research, if a veterinarian cannot be contacted and the animal cannot be taken to a rehabilitation center, NMFS researchers must cease any activities that will further significantly stress the animal, allow it to recuperate as conditions dictate, and return the animal to the sea.

- b. Turtles are to be protected from temperature extremes of heat and cold, provided adequate air flow, and kept moist (if appropriate) during sampling. Turtles must be placed on pads for cushioning and this surface must be cleaned and disinfected between turtles. The area surrounding the turtle must not contain any materials that could be accidentally ingested.
- c. During release, turtles must be lowered as close to the water's surface as possible to prevent potential injuries.
- d. Researchers must carefully observe newly released turtles and record observations on the turtle's apparent ability to swim and dive in a normal manner. If a turtle is not behaving normally within one hour of release, the turtle must be recaptured and taken to a rehabilitation facility.

For research activities occurring aboard commercial fishing vessels or in conjunction with other NMFS research, NMFS researchers must carefully observe newly released turtles and record

observations on the turtle's apparent ability to swim and dive in a normal manner.

3. Leatherbacks must only be boarded if they can be safely brought on board the vessel. Leatherback turtles must be handled by at least two people, one on either side of the turtle, and precautions must be taken to ensure that animals are supported from underneath. Leatherback turtles must not be turned on their backs. Field and laboratory observations indicate that leatherbacks have more friable skin and softer bones than hardshell turtles which tend to be hardier and less susceptible to trauma. Extra care must be exercised when handling, sampling and releasing leatherbacks.
4. Biopsy (tissue-skin) sampling:
 - a. A new biopsy punch must be used on each turtle.
 - b. Turtles brought on-board the vessel for sampling:
 - i. Sterile techniques must be used at all times. Samples must be collected from the trailing edge of a flipper if possible and practical (preference should be given to a rear flipper if practical). The tissue surface must be thoroughly swabbed once with both betadine and alcohol, sampled, and then thoroughly swabbed again with just betadine. The procedure area and hands must be clean.
 - c. If it can be easily determined (through markings, tag number, etc.) that a sea turtle has been recaptured by the fisheries and has been already sampled under the activities authorized by this permit, no further biopsy samples must be collected from the animal.
5. Transfer of Biological Samples: The transfer of any biological samples from the Permit Holder to researchers other than those specifically identified here requires written approval from NMFS. The terms and conditions concerning any samples collected under this authorization remain in effect as long as the Permit Holder maintains authority and responsibility of the material taken.
 - a. Samples may be sent to:
NOAA-NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center, 3333 North Torrey Pines Court, La Jolla, CA 92037-1002
6. Painting of Carapace: The applicant would use non-toxic paints that do not contain xylene or toluene. For turtles \leq approximately 4 years old, paint would be applied without crossing suture lines (margins) if the paint would remain on the shell for 3 months or more. For juvenile turtles $>$

than approximately 4 years old paint would be applied without crossing suture lines (margins) if the paint would remain on the shell for 1 year or more. For adult turtles, paint would be applied without crossing suture lines (margins) if the paint will remain on the shell for 2 years or more. Also, the applicant would not use paints with exothermic set-up reactions to avoid any effects from heat that could affect the turtle as the paint cures.

C. Qualifications, Responsibilities, and Designation of Personnel

1. At the discretion of the Permit Holder, the following Researchers may participate in the conduct of the permitted activities in accordance with their qualifications and the limitations specified herein:
 - a. Principal Investigator – James Nance
 - b. Co-Investigator(s) – Kenneth Keene, John Carlson, Gregg Gitschlag, and Elizabeth Scott-Denton.
 - c. Research Assistants – personnel identified by the Permit Holder or Principal Investigator and qualified to act pursuant to Conditions C.2, C.3, and C.4 of this permit
2. Individuals conducting permitted activities must possess qualifications commensurate with their roles and responsibilities. The roles and responsibilities of personnel operating under this permit are as follows:
 - a. The Permit Holder is ultimately responsible for activities of individuals operating under the authority of this permit. Where the Permit Holder is an institution/facility, the Responsible Party is the person at the institution/facility who is responsible for the supervision of the Principal Investigator.
 - b. The Principal Investigator (PI) is the individual primarily responsible for the taking, import, export and related activities conducted under the permit. The PI must be on site during activities conducted under this permit unless a Co-Investigator named in Condition C.1 is present to act in place of the PI.
 - c. Co-Investigators (CIs) are individuals who are qualified to conduct activities authorized by the permit without the on-site supervision of the PI. CIs assume the role and responsibility of the PI in the PI's absence.
 - d. Research Assistants (RAs) are individuals who work under the direct and on-site supervision of the PI or a CI. RAs cannot conduct permitted activities in the absence of the PI or a CI.

3. Personnel involved in permitted activities must be reasonable in number and essential to conduct of the permitted activities. Essential personnel are limited to:
 - a. Individuals who perform a function directly supportive of and necessary to the permitted activity (including operation of vessels or aircraft essential to conduct of the activity);
 - b. Individuals included as backup for those personnel essential to the conduct of the permitted activity; and
 - c. Individuals included for training purposes.
4. Persons who require state or Federal licenses to conduct activities authorized under the permit (e.g., veterinarians, pilots) must be duly licensed when undertaking such activities.
5. Permitted activities may be conducted aboard vessels or aircraft, or in cooperation with individuals or organizations, engaged in commercial activities, provided the commercial activities are not conducted simultaneously with the permitted activities, except with written approval pursuant to Condition B.3 or as specifically provided for in an Incidental Take Statement or Incidental Take Permit for the specific commercial activity.
6. The Permit Holder may request authorization from the Chief, Permits Division to add personnel to this permit as indicated below. The Permit Holder cannot require or receive direct or indirect compensation in return for requesting authorization for such person to act as a PI, CI, or RA under the permit.

The Permit Holder or PI may designate additional CIs provided a copy of the letter designating the individual, which specifies their duties under the permit, and a copy of the individual's qualifications to conduct and oversee the specified duties, is provided to the Permits Division by facsimile or email on the day of designation and confirmed by mail. The Responsible Party may request a change of PI by submitting a written request for personnel change to the Chief, Permits Division. The request must include a description of the individual's qualifications to conduct and oversee the activities authorized under this permit. Requests may be submitted:

- through the online system at <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, or
- by email attachment to the permit analyst for this permit, or
- by hard copy mailed or faxed to the Chief, Permits Division.

D. Possession of Permit

1. This permit cannot be transferred or assigned to any other person.
2. The Permit Holder and persons operating under the authority of this permit must possess a copy of this permit: when engaged in a permitted activity; when a protected species is in transit incidental to a permitted activity; and when a protected species taken under such permit is in the possession of such persons.
3. A duplicate copy of this permit must be attached to the container, package, enclosure, or other means of containment in which a protected species or protected species part is placed for purposes of storage, transit, supervision or care.

E. Reports

1. The Permit Holder must submit annual, final, and incident reports, and papers or publications resulting from the research authorized herein to the Permits Division. Reports may be submitted
 - through the online system at <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>,
 - by email attachment to the permit analyst for this permit, or
 - by hard copy mailed or faxed to the Chief, Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Rm 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)427-8401; fax (301)713-0376.
2. Written incident reports related to serious injury and mortality events or to exceeding authorized takes, must be submitted to the Chief, Permits Division within two weeks of the incident. The incident report must include a complete description of the events and identification of steps that will be taken to reduce the potential for additional research-related mortality or exceedence of authorized take.
3. An annual report must be submitted to the Chief, Permits Division at the conclusion of each year for which the permit is valid. Annual reports are due by October 23rd each year. The annual report describing activities conducted during the previous permit year must follow the format in Appendix 2.
4. A final report must be submitted to the Chief, Permits Division within 180 days after expiration of the permit (January 21, 2017), or, if the research concludes prior to permit expiration, within 180 days of completion of the research. The final report must follow the format in Appendix 2.
5. Research results must be published or otherwise made available to the scientific community in a reasonable period of time.

F. Notification and Coordination

1. The Permit Holder must provide written notification of planned field work to the Southeast Regional Administrator for Protected Resources at the address listed below. Such notification must be made at least two weeks prior to initiation of a field trip/season and must include the locations of the intended field study and/or survey routes, estimated dates of research, and number and roles (for example: PI, CI, veterinarian, boat driver, safety diver, animal restrainer, Research Assistant “in training”) of participants.

Southeast Region (*Email notification preferred*)
Email: nmfs.ser.research.notification@noaa.gov;
NMFS, 263 13th Ave South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701;
phone (727)824-5312; fax (727)824-5309

2. To the maximum extent practical, the Permit Holder must coordinate permitted activities with activities of other Permit Holders conducting the same or similar activities on the same species, in the same locations, or at the same times of year to avoid unnecessary disturbance of animals. The Southeast Regional Office may be contacted at the address listed above for information about coordinating with other Permit Holders.

G. Observers and Inspections

1. NMFS may review activities conducted pursuant to this permit. At the request of NMFS, the Permit Holder must cooperate with any such review by:
 - a. Allowing an employee of NOAA or other person designated by the Director, NMFS Office of Protected Resources to observe permitted activities; and
 - b. Providing all documents or other information relating to the permitted activities.

H. Modification, Suspension, and Revocation

1. Permits are subject to suspension, revocation, modification, and denial in accordance with the provisions of subpart D [Permit Sanctions and Denials] of 15 CFR part 904.
2. The Director, NMFS Office of Protected Resources may modify, suspend, or revoke this permit in whole or in part:
 - a. In order to make the permit consistent with a change made after the date of permit issuance with respect to applicable regulation prescribed under section 4 of the ESA;

- b. In a case in which a violation of the terms and conditions of the permit is found;
 - c. In response to a written request⁴ from the Permit Holder;
 - d. If NMFS determines that the application or other information pertaining to the permitted activities (including, but not limited to, reports pursuant to Section E of this permit and information provided to NOAA personnel pursuant to Section G of this permit) includes false information; and
 - e. If NMFS determines that the authorized activities will operate to the disadvantage of threatened or endangered species or are otherwise no longer consistent with the purposes and policy in Section 2 of the ESA.
3. Issuance of this permit does not guarantee or imply that NMFS will issue or approve subsequent permits or amendments for the same or similar activities requested by the Permit Holder, including those of a continuing nature.

I. Penalties and Permit Sanctions

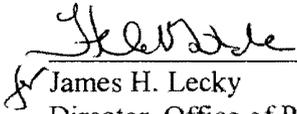
1. A person who violates a provision of this permit, the ESA, or the regulations at 50 CFR 222-226 is subject to civil and criminal penalties, permit sanctions, and forfeiture as authorized under the ESA, and 15 CFR part 904.
2. NMFS shall be the sole arbiter of whether a given activity is within the scope and bounds of the authorization granted in this permit. The Permit Holder must contact the Permits Division for verification before conducting the activity if they are unsure whether an activity is within the scope of the permit. Failure to verify, where NMFS subsequently determines that an activity was outside the scope of the permit, may be used as evidence of a violation of the permit, the ESA, and applicable regulations in any enforcement actions.

⁴ The Permit Holder may request changes to the permit related to: the objectives or purposes of the permitted activities; the species or number of animals taken; and the location, time, or manner of taking or importing protected species. Such requests must be submitted in writing to the Permits Division in the format specified in the application instructions.

J. Acceptance of Permit

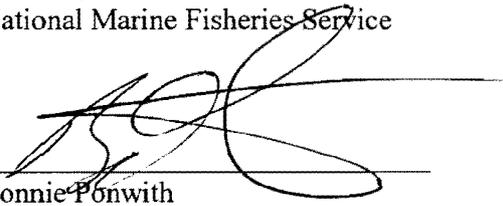
1. In signing this permit, the Permit Holder:

- a. Agrees to abide by all terms and conditions set forth in the permit, all restrictions and relevant regulations under 50 CFR Parts 222-226, and all restrictions and requirements under the ESA;
- b. Acknowledges that the authority to conduct certain activities specified in the permit is conditional and subject to authorization by the Office Director; and
- c. Acknowledges that this permit does not relieve the Permit Holder of the responsibility to obtain any other permits, or comply with any other Federal, State, local, or international laws or regulations.



James H. Lecky
Director, Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service

July 22, 2011
Date Issued

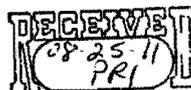


Bonnie Ponwith
Director, Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Responsible Party

22 July, 2011
Date Effective

FILE COPY

NMFS Permit No. 15552
Expiration Date: July 25, 2016



Appendix 1: Table for General Action Areas for Each Commercial Fishery or Program and Take Tables

Table 1: General Action Areas for Each Commercial Fishery or Program.	
Fishery or Program	Action Area
Directed Shark Gillnet Fishery	Georgia to West Palm Beach, Florida
Shark Bottom Longline Fishery	Mid-Atlantic Bight to south Florida and Gulf of Mexico
Pelagic Longline Fisheries (includes 4 fisheries listed below)	Western Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea
<i>Yellowfin tuna fishery</i>	Gulf of Mexico
<i>Southern Atlantic swordfish fishery</i>	Florida East Coast to Cape Hatteras, NC
<i>U.S. Atlantic Distant Water swordfish fishery</i>	Atlantic Ocean
<i>Caribbean tuna and swordfish fishery</i>	Caribbean Sea
Commercial Shrimp Trawl Fishery	Gulf of Mexico and southeastern Atlantic Ocean
Directed Reef fish Fishery	U.S. Gulf of Mexico and off the east coast of the U.S.
Oil and Gas Platform Removal Program	U.S. Gulf of Mexico, from Texas to Alabama
Other NMFS Authorized Fisheries and Activities	Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, and their tributaries

Table 1: Maximum Total Takes (Course of Permit) of Sea Turtles under Permit No. 15552 in the Directed Shark Gillnet Fishery. Location: Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, and tributaries

No. of Animals	Species	Age/Sex	Activity
16*	Loggerhead	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release
2*	Leatherback	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release
2*	Kemp's ridley	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release
2*	Hawksbill	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release
5*	Green	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release
5*	Other sea turtle species (olive ridley, or unknown/hybrid)	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release
29*	Any species above, combined total (mortality authorized by fishery ITS)	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Salvage carcass, tissue samples/parts from incidental lethal take accrued to fishery

* = The number of takes authorized is contingent upon the ESA Section 7 biological opinion for the Incidental Take Statement (ITS) of fishery. If the ITS of the fishery increases, and only if a no jeopardy conclusion was made on the new consultation, researchers may take additional turtles up to the amount of the new ITS but not to exceed the upper totals of this permit. If the ITS decreases, researchers may take only the number authorized in the lower ITS.

Table 2: Maximum Total Takes (Course of Permit) of Sea Turtles under Permit No. 15552 in the Directed Shark Bottom Longline Fishery. Location: Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, and tributaries

No. of Animals	Species	Age/Sex	Activity
27*	Loggerhead	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release
2*	Leatherback	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release
10* (combined total, all species)	Green, Kemp's ridley, Hawksbill	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release
5*	Olive ridley or unknown/hybrid	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release
37*	Any species above, combined total (mortality authorized by fishery ITS)	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Salvage carcass, tissue samples/parts from incidental lethal take accrued to fishery

* = The number of takes authorized is contingent upon the ESA Section 7 biological opinion for the Incidental Take Statement (ITS) of fishery. If the ITS of the fishery increases, and only if a no jeopardy conclusion was made on the new consultation, researchers may take additional turtles up to the amount of the new ITS but not to exceed the upper totals of this permit. If the ITS decreases, researchers may take only the number authorized in the lower ITS.

Table 3: Maximum Total (Duration of Permit) Takes of Sea Turtles under Permit No. 15552 in the Pelagic Longline Fishery. Location: Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, and tributaries

No. of Animals	Species	Age/Sex	Activity
159*	Loggerhead	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release
147*	Leatherback	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release
10* (total, combined, all species)	Green, Kemp's ridley, Hawksbill, Olive ridley, or Unknown/Hybrid	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release
52* (total combined, all species)	Any species above, combined total (mortality authorized by fishery ITS)	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Salvage carcass, tissue samples/parts from incidental lethal take accrued to fishery

* = The number of takes authorized is contingent upon the ESA Section 7 biological opinion for the Incidental Take Statement (ITS) of fishery. If the ITS of the fishery increases, and only if a no jeopardy conclusion was made on the new consultation, researchers may take additional turtles up to the amount of the new ITS but not to exceed the upper totals of this permit. If the ITS decreases, researchers may take only the number authorized in the lower ITS.

Table 4: Maximum Total (Duration of Permit) Takes of Sea Turtles under Permit No. 15552 in the Commercial Shrimp Trawl Fishery. Location: Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, and tributaries

No. of Animals	Species	Age/Sex	Activity
50*	Green	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release OR salvage carcass, tissue samples/parts
150*	Loggerhead	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release OR salvage carcass, tissue samples/parts
100*	Kemp's ridley	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release OR salvage carcass, tissue samples/parts
50*	Hawksbill	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release OR salvage carcass, tissue samples/parts
50*	Leatherback	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release OR salvage carcass, tissue samples/parts
50*	Olive ridley or unknown/hybrid	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release OR salvage carcass, tissue samples/parts

* = The number of takes authorized is contingent upon the ESA Section 7 biological opinion for the Incidental Take Statement (ITS) of fishery. If the ITS of the fishery increases, and only if a no jeopardy conclusion was made on the new consultation, researchers may take additional turtles up to the amount of the new ITS but not to exceed the upper totals of this permit. If the ITS decreases, researchers may take only the number authorized in the lower ITS.

Table 5: Maximum Total (Duration of Permit) Takes of Sea Turtles under Permit No. 15552 in the Directed Reef Fish Fishery (Bottom Longline and Bandit Reel Gear). Location: Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, and tributaries

No. of Animals	Species	Age/Sex	Activity
17*	Green	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release
269*	Loggerhead	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release
9*	Kemp's ridley	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release
2*	Hawksbill	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release
2*	Leatherback	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release
33*	Olive ridley or Unknown/Hybrid	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release
168* (total combined, all species)	Any species above, combined total (mortality authorized by fishery ITS)	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Salvage carcass, tissue samples/parts from incidental lethal take accrued to fishery

* = The number of takes authorized is contingent upon the ESA Section 7 biological opinion for the Incidental Take Statement (ITS) of fishery. If the ITS of the fishery increases, and only if a no jeopardy conclusion was made on the new consultation, researchers may take additional turtles up to the amount of the new ITS but not to exceed the upper totals of this permit. If the

ITS decreases, researchers may take only the number authorized in the lower ITS.

Table 6: Maximum Total (Duration of Permit) Takes of Sea Turtles under Permit No. 15552 in the Oil/Gas Platform Removal Program. Location: Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, and tributaries			
No. of Animals	Species	Age/Sex	Activity
2*	Green	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release OR salvage carcass, tissue samples/parts
10*	Loggerhead	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release OR salvage carcass, tissue samples/parts
2*	Kemp's ridley	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release OR salvage carcass, tissue samples/parts
2*	Hawksbill	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release OR salvage carcass, tissue samples/parts
2*	Leatherback	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release OR salvage carcass, tissue samples/parts
2*	Olive ridley, or Unknown/ Hybrid	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release OR salvage carcass, tissue samples/parts

* = The number of takes authorized is contingent upon the ESA Section 7 biological opinion for the Incidental Take Statement (ITS) of fishery. If the ITS of the fishery increases, and only if a no jeopardy conclusion was made on the new consultation, researchers may take additional turtles up to the amount of the new ITS but not to exceed the upper totals of this permit. If the ITS decreases, researchers may take only the number authorized in the lower ITS.

Table 7: Maximum Total (Duration of Permit) Takes of Sea Turtles under Permit No. 15552 in other Authorized NMFS Fisheries and Activities NMFS May Observe***. Location: Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, and tributaries

No. of Animals	Species	Age/Sex	Activity
20	Green	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release
100	Loggerhead	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release
50	Kemp's ridley	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release
20	Hawksbill	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release
50	Leatherback	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release
20	Olive ridley	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release
5	Unidentified Cheloniid	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Handle, measure, weigh, photograph, carapace mark (temporary), flipper tag, PIT tag, skin biopsy, release

Table 7: Maximum Total (Duration of Permit) Takes of Sea Turtles under Permit No. 15552 in other Authorized NMFS Fisheries and Activities NMFS May Observe***. Location: Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, and tributaries

No. of Animals	Species	Age/Sex	Activity
50	Any species above, combined total (if mortality authorized by fishery ITS)	Post-hatchling, subadult & adult of both sexes	Salvage carcass, tissue samples/parts from incidental lethal take accrued to fishery

*** = The animals must have been legally taken (e.g., covered by the incidental take statement [ITS] of an ESA section 7 biological opinion or by an ESA incidental take permit [ITP] with “no jeopardy” conclusions). The number of animals used for research by the Permit Holder shall not exceed the number authorized by ITSs or ITPs).

Possible fisheries that would be observed and their gear types include the Migratory Coastal Pelagic Fisheries- Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic (Trolling and Gill Nets); Southeastern and Gulf of Mexico Crab Fisheries (Crab Trap/Pot); South Atlantic Snapper-grouper (Trap); Lobster Trap Fishery (Pot); Butterfish, Squid Fish Trawl Fishery (Paired / Single Trawl); Recreational Private Boat Fishery (Hook and Line, Cast Net, Crab Pot, Gill Net, Rake, Tong, Seine); Jellyfish Surface Trawl Fishery (Trawl); Inshore Gillnet Fishery (Gillnet); North Carolina Coastal Gillnet Fishery in State and Federal Waters (Gillnet); North Carolina Pound-net Fishery (Pound Net); Southeastern Atlantic Croaker and Weakfish Fishery (Flynet); Atlantic Menhaden Purse-Seine Fishery (Purse Seine); Gulf Menhaden Purse-Seine Fishery (Purse Seine); Brown, White, Pink and Other Marine Shrimp Fishery (Cast net); Gulf of Mexico Pink Shrimp Fishery (Beam Trawl); Brown, White, Pink, Seabob and Other Marine Shrimp Fishery (Skimmer Trawl); Brown, White, Pink, Seabob and Other Marine Shrimp Fishery (Butterfly Net); North Carolina Haul/Beach Seine for Striped Bass, Weakfish, Spot, Striped Mullet (Multifilament Seine; Monofilament Gillnet/Seine); North Carolina Long-Haul Seines for Spot, Weakfish, and Atlantic Croaker (Seine); North Carolina Stop Nets for Striped Mullet (Multi-filament Anchored Net and Multifilament Beach Seine); Black Sea Bass Pot Fishery (Pot/Traps); Winter Fluke (Flounder) Trawl Fishery (Trawl).

Appendix 2: Format for submitting annual and final reports

Reports may be submitted

- through the online system at <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>,
- by email attachment to the permit analyst for this permit, or
- by hard copy mailed or faxed to the Chief, Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Suite 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713-2289; fax (301)713-0376

The following is only an EXAMPLE of the report form. If you do not intend to submit your report online, please contact your permit analyst for an electronic report form to fill out and return.

Date: _____ **Reporting Period:** (check APPS or contact permit analyst)

Permit Number: _____ **Permit Holder's Name:** _____

Contact Name: _____ **Contact Email:** _____

Contact Phone #: _____

(Contact = person submitting report)

Part I: Take Tables. Enter the actual number of animals taken during this reporting period.

You will be asked to complete a table that looks like the Project Location Tables in your permit, with an additional column for you to enter the "actual number of animals taken" in the last permit year. You must contact your permit analyst for an electronic version of this table or use the on-line report system.

NOTE: If you conducted activities or took protected species for which you were not authorized, you must enter them on separate lines of the table and explain exactly what happened (see Part II below).

Part II: Narrative. You will be asked to provide responses to the following:

1. Describe problems or unforeseen effects encountered during the permitted activities and any steps taken or proposed to resolve such problems.
2. Describe what measures were taken to minimize effects of permitted activities on animals and the effectiveness of these measures.
3. If animals were unintentionally injured or killed, describe the circumstances. Describe how dead animals were disposed of if not in the way described in the permit.

4. Describe the physical condition of animals taken and used in the permitted activities.
5. Describe the effects permitted activities had on animals, including any unforeseen responses or effects.
6. Describe steps taken to coordinate the permitted activities with other permit holders.
7. Summarize preliminary findings. Did you accomplish the goals of your permitted activities?
8. List titles of reports, publications, etc. resulting from this reporting period. Attach copies of any final documents as available. If these documents are not yet available, indicate when you anticipate that they will be completed and submitted. When reports and publications become available, send to the Permits Division and include the permit number in correspondence.
9. Note the number and type of non-permitted species caught, harassed, or otherwise taken, and the observed effects of such taking.
10. Note any incidental (non-research related) use of photographs, film, or other images (e.g., on websites, in commercial publications or documentaries).
11. Additional findings, results, or information on which you would like to report or comment.